Hungry Canyons Alliance Facts

1. **Streambed stabilization structures funded by the Hungry Canyons Alliance protect bridges, farmland, and utility lines (telephone, gas, and electric) already endangered by streambed erosion.** The Hungry Canyons Alliance is taking an active, leading role in controlling erosion caused by streambed degradation.

2. **This is a preventative program to avoid bridge collapses and further soil erosion.** If streambed stabilization is not funded now, stream erosion will continue and cause greater rehabilitation costs in the future.

3. **Streambed stabilization structures increase water quality** by decreasing soil erosion and allowing silt to settle out upstream of weirs.

4. **The Hungry Canyons Alliance is solving a costly problem with an affordable solution. On average, every dollar spent on streambed stabilization structures protects approximately $4.40 of property.**

5. **The Hungry Canyons Alliance leverages state, federal, and local monies to build streambed stabilization structures.**

6. **The state funding acts as a match for our federal funding.** State appropriations have been cut from $1.5 million in FY2001 to $441,667 in FY2002 to a complete suspension of funding last year.

7. **For 11 years now, the HCA has been helping western Iowa counties build streambed stabilization structures.** Over that time 198 structures have been approved for cost share. At a construction cost of only $12.7 million, the 198 structures will protect $50.5 million dollars of property. The Hungry Canyons Alliance allocated $2.1, $2.3, and $1.1 million in cost share to western Iowa counties during the years 2000, 2001, and 2002, respectively.

8. **The Hungry Canyons Alliance promotes more effective streambed stabilization by helping counties to work together.** Member counties look at stream stabilization across county lines and consider the entire watershed and stream system when planning. Members search for and use new cost-effective materials. Designs are continually evaluated for effectiveness.

9. **Before the Hungry Canyons Alliance came into existence, western Iowa counties were losing bridges, utilities, and soil at an alarming rate.** Some counties would have soon faced bankruptcy if the Hungry Canyons Alliance was not formed to help address the problem.

Narrative for Legislative Forum Attendees

Purpose: Mention some of following about the Hungry Canyons Alliance when discussing natural resources conservation or infrastructure.

Streambed degradation in the deep loess soils of western Iowa has cost approximately $1.1 billion in damage to infrastructure and loss of land. An affordable solution to this problem is to build engineering structures in streams, which reduce stream energy. Local, county, state, and federal resources are used to protect threatened bridges, utilities, and farmland through the construction of streambed stabilization structures. The Hungry Canyons Alliance makes these resources available to the 22 counties through a cost share program.

The Hungry Canyons Alliance was formed to focus attention on the problems of, and develop solutions to, stream channel degradation in 22 counties within the deep loess soils region of western Iowa. The goals of Hungry Canyons Alliance are: 1) To provide financial and technical assistance for streambed stabilization projects in the 22 counties of the deep loess region in western Iowa, 2) To conduct research in effective methods of streambed stabilization, and 3) To provide demonstration of streambed stabilization projects for members and for the public.

Since 1992, $13 million has been provided by the Hungry Canyons Alliance, through state and federal appropriations, for use in streambed stabilization structures. Local governments have provided a third of the cost of the structures. 198 structures in 16 counties have been funded, protecting an estimated $50.5 million in property value, including bridges, farmland, and utility lines. For every dollar invested in Hungry Canyons Alliance streambed stabilization structures, an average of $4.43 in property value is protected.